GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:493
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2016
Relationship with Nepal
Ajmal Maulana Badruddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is losing out on its good relationship with neighbouring country Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to smoothen out the relationship;

(c) whether any committee/group has been formed to strive for revival of the good relationship;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the current status; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) No. India's age−old ties with Nepal are unique and special, characterized by an open border based on shared history, geography, culture, close people−to−people ties, mutual security and close economic linkages. Two−thirds of Nepal's global trade is with India and over 90% of Nepal's third country import−export transit is through India. India is committed to further strengthen and expand India−Nepal cooperation through regular bilateral exchanges and development assistance. India will continue to extend all assistance in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Nepal, for peace, stability and socio−economic development of the country.

(c) & (d) There are several bilateral mechanisms in place covering the areas of defence and security, trade, power, water resources and boundary demarcation, besides the India−Nepal Joint Commission which comprehensively reviews the entire gamut of bilateral relations. An Eminent Persons Group for India−Nepal relations was also constituted after the visit of Nepalese Prime Minister, Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli, to India, in February 2016. The Group held its first meeting in Kathmandu on 4−5 July 2016.

(e) Does not arise.